



INSTREAM FLOW PILOT STATUS REPORT- OCTOBER 27, 2004

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program
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SOUHEGAN PILOT PROJECT

The Souhegan Pilot Program began with the creation of the advisory committees. The Technical Review Committee and the Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee have been convened. The TRC first met February 6 and the WMPAAC met March 5. Meeting information for these and subsequent meetings is available on the website at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/souhegan.htm>.

Souhegan Contractor Selection

University of New Hampshire / University of Massachusetts / Normandeau Associates, Inc. were selected for the Souhegan Pilot Study. Governor and Executive Council approved the cooperative agreement June 2, 2004.

Souhegan Protected Instream Flow Study and Water Management Plan

UNH is responsible for conducting the Protected Instream Flow Study and developing the Water Management Plan. UNH's proposal for the Protected Instream Flow Study and Water Management Plan can be read at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/pdf/April1504CoopAgree.pdf>. Task 1, 3 and 4 have been completed. The schedule has been revised from the proposal by extending the remaining task by three months. River conditions in August and September 2004 never met sampling needs requiring these measurements be postponed to next July and August.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

For Souhegan River Instream Flow Protection Pilot Project

Task 5 – PISF Assessments and Proposed PISF Report	November 2005
Task 6 – PISF Public Hearing (joint)	December 2005
Task 7 – PISF Report for the Souhegan River	January 2006
Task 8 – Assessment of Water Use with the Established PISF	December 2005
Task 9 – Development of WMP Sub-Plans	January 2006
Task 10 – Proposed WMP	February 2006
Task 11 – WMP Public Hearing (joint)	January 2006
Task 12 – WMP Report for the Souhegan	March 2006
Department adopts WMP	May 2006

LAMPREY PILOT PROJECT

This pilot is in its earliest stage. The National Marine Fisheries Service contacted the Department March 19, 2004 regarding federal funding (NOAA) for the NH Instream Flow Program. The Department completed the grant application in June 2004. The application requests funding for the Lamprey Pilot Project and Department staff and expenses in administering the Program. The grant was awarded in October 2004 and will be available upon G&C approval.

The committee nomination and approval process for the Lamprey Pilot were the first task in beginning the Lamprey Pilot Project. The Technical Review Committee members have been appointed. The Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee will be appointed by Governor and Executive Council.

One of the first tasks of these committees is to choose members for the Consultant Selection Committee. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published and mailed July 30, 2004. Selection of a

contractor will be conducted as was done with the Souhegan Pilot. The Consultant Selection Committee will meet to shortlist three to four firms from the seven firms who submitted packages.

- University of New Hampshire / University of Massachusetts / Normandeau Associates, Inc.
- Tetra Tech EM, Inc. / Dartmouth College /
- The Louis Berger Group, Inc. / Thomas R. Payne and Associates
- Kleinschmidt Energy & Water Resource Consultants / GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. / ESS Group, Inc. / Hydrologic Services, Inc.
- Gomez and Sullivan, P.C. / Cornell University / University of New Hampshire
- ENSR International / Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. / Wright-Pierce / Eastern Research Group, Inc. // Tufts University
- Hydroterra Environmental Services, LLC

The Department is creating maps and tables of information on Lamprey-specific protected entities to support the Instream Flow Study. These maps and tables are being posted to the website.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

For Lamprey River Instream Flow Protection Pilot Project

9/15/04	DES receives qualifications statements from consultants (7)
11/4/04	G&C approves WMPAAC nominations
11/04	First Lamprey TRC and Lamprey WMPAAC meetings
Late 11/04	NOAA funds available for Lamprey pilot project
12/04	Lamprey consultant selection committee reviews Q&E packages
2/05	Lamprey Study contractor selected
3/05	Lamprey Contract signed, studies begin
4/05	Lamprey IPUOCRs defined
Fall 05	Draft Protected Instream Flow Study for Lamprey
Winter 05/06	DES establishes Protected Flows, Draft Water Management Plan
8/06	DES adopts Water Management Plan for Lamprey

Completion of Pilot Program

The Pilot Program will be completed by the establishment of Protected Instream Flows and adoption of Water Management Plans on the Lamprey and Souhegan Rivers, followed by a public hearing and final report by the Department. The Department and the SB330 committee will present their final reports to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2008.

PILOT COMPLETION DEADLINES (From Laws of 2002, Chapter 278 as revised by Laws of 2003, Chapter 319 (HB4 – State Budget))

By April 1, 2007	DES report to legislature (PISF and WMPs)
By June 1, 2007	DES/legislative committees hold public hearing(s) jointly
By October 1, 2007	Lamprey and Souhegan PISFs and WMPs adopted
By October 1, 2008 or one year following WMPs adoption	DES public hearing and 30-day comment period
By December 1, 2008	DES final report to legislature
By December 1, 2008	SB 330 report to governor and legislature